

# Dolly Madison Harmony Breakfast: Lovely Feast of Lovely Women

BY JOHN ELPRETH WATKINS.

THE Dolly Madison "harmony breakfast" soon to be held in the national capital by the wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of Democratic leaders, past and present, will be by far the most brilliant gathering of women ever occurring upon American soil. Never will so many women with famous names have been brought together upon a social occasion. Every section of the country will be represented, as will every generation, now in the land of the living—venerable great-grandmothers, state grandmothers, distinguished matrons, reigning belles, radiant debutantes, and even blushing girls in their tender teens, will be interspersed among the most fragrant spring blossoms and the rarest of exotics to form the most dazzling galaxy of beauty and color ever brought together under one American roof.

What their fathers, husbands, brothers and sons have in part failed to accomplish with their Jackson Day banquets and Jefferson Day dinners, these maidens, matrons and grande dames, by invoking the spirit of Dolly Madison, purpose to effect by dint of tact, diplomacy, charm, viands fit for the gods, the sweetest scents of nature's sweetest flowers and the sweetest harmonies that can be conjured up by the wizard of music. As an institution for the promotion of peace, The Hague tribunal itself cannot boast of the placating potency promised for this great concave of femininity, which will devise ways and means to make the lion lie peacefully beside the lamb, to make the Kilkenny cats lap complacently from the same plate, to make the oil of radicalism and the water of conservatism mix in one homogeneous balm.

The subscription list is open to all wives, daughters, mothers and sisters of present Democratic members of both houses of Congress, of present Democratic Governors and Governors-elect, of former members of Congress now living in the District of Columbia; also the wives of former Democratic Cabinet officers, past and present; of Democratic Justices of the Federal Supreme Court, of members of the Democratic National Committee, and of Democratic members of the National Press Club.

These scores of ladies will pay \$5 each and will serve as hostesses to the following "guests of honor": Mrs. Grover Cleveland, Mrs. Champ Clark, Mrs. William J. Bryan, Mrs. Alton B. Parker, Mrs. Adlai Stevenson, Mrs. Edward D. White, Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, Mrs. Judson Harmon, Mrs. Joseph W. Folk, Mrs. John W. Kern, Mrs. Thomas R. Marshall, Mrs. Eugene N. Poes, Mrs. John A. Dix, Mrs. Oscar W. Underwood, Mrs. William R. Hearst, Mrs. Norman Mack and Mrs. Henry Watterson. This list, as it will be seen, includes the wives of the highest Democratic officials and party leaders, as well as the wives of all Democrats who are being or who have been mentioned as presidential possibilities, including those who have been nominated for the past.

One of the most conspicuous features of the function will be a table set apart for the feminine descendants of all Democratic Presidents, from Jefferson to Cleveland, and no feature of arrangements is exciting as much interest as the constant discovery of illegals for this table, which will be the exposure of all gathered in the great banquet hall.

The toastmistress, the distinction of having originated the plan of the monster feast is due to Mrs. Robert W. McKim, wife of the representative from the Sixth Louisiana District. Having reserved the right to appoint the chairman of the Executive Committee, in charge of the arrangements, she conferred this honor upon Mrs. Henry D. Clayton, wife of the representative from the Third Alabama District. For toastmistress of the breakfast Mrs. Champ Clark has been selected because her husband, the Speaker, is the ranking Democratic official of government now



MRS. WILLIAM J. BRYAN,  
Honor Guest.

MRS. CHAMP CLARK,  
Toastmistress.



DOLLY MADISON.



MRS. ADLAI STEVENSON,  
Guest of Honor.



MRS. CLEVELAND,  
Chief Guest of Honor.

in active political life. Being a woman of unusual intellectuality, one whose contributions have been welcomed by the press, Mrs. Clark is unusually well fitted for this responsibility. May 29 has been selected as the date of the great love feast, because it is the birthday of Dolly Madison, who has been selected as the patron saint of the jubilee, not alone because she was the "First Lady of the Land," whose husband was of the party now called Democratic, but because she was the most potent feminine factor working for party "good feeling" in the past history of the republic, and also the most popular mistress who adorned the White House during the century following independence.

A century ago that charming dispenser of hospitality, tact and diplomacy—recommended by historians for her "tolerance and broadmindedness"—was reigning in the White House, as, in fact, she had done during the previous eight years, during its occupancy by the wifeless Jefferson. Her birthday, on whose centenary will be held the "harmony breakfast" will be held with probably not celebrated or announced, for it was her fortieth—a milestone which ladies are wont to approach with unaccustomed dread. Moreover, it was not a time for social gayeties, for dark war clouds were frowning above the horizon. Congress had just doubled the tariff to buy guns to be used against the mother country, and the Madison household was upon

the eve of a period of gloom due to a long series of American defeats culminating in the burning of the White House itself and the heroic escape of Mistress Dolly with the portrait of Washington, ripped from its frame with her hairpin.

Honor Seat for Mrs. Cleveland. It is most fitting that at this great function celebrating the 140th birthday of Dorothy Madison the chief seat of honor—at the right of the toastmistress—has been offered to Frances Polson Cleveland, who, among all Democratic mistresses of the White

House, most nearly approached the immortal "Dolly" in popularity, tact, charm and social success.

A quarter century ago Mrs. Cleveland, a bride of less than a year, had just concluded her first social season at the White House. Her name was upon every lip, her face was familiar to the humblest dweller in the most thousands who at Washington and viewed the actual radiance of her smile, returned home to cherish its memory as long as they might live to sing her praises. At her levees, at public ceremonies or when abroad in her carriage she beamed upon the multitudes with the benevolence of mother love. At public receptions in the White House she stood with her husband as long at a time as three hours and forty minutes and shook hands with as many as 7,000 people within this time.

She who thus won the hearts of the people when she came to the White House, a beautiful bride of twenty-one, is now a handsome matron of forty-seven, with one daughter of debutante age and another of fifteen, besides two strapping sons. Since her marriage Mrs. Cleveland has spent some time in Europe, particularly in Switzerland, where, at Lausanne, she has had her children entered in private schools, primarily that they might acquire a speaking knowledge of French. And inasmuch as she had already mastered that language, whose essentials she learned at the kindergarten, she has spent her leisure at Lausanne in studying Italian. Although it has been fifteen years since she relinquished her exalted station as first lady of the land, her memory is still green in the hearts of official Washington, which will give her a warm welcome if she decides to assume the chief honor seat at the Dolly Madison breakfast.

Upon the left hand of the toastmistress at this interesting assemblage will sit Mrs. William Jennings Bryan, who as one of her "Cabinet ladies," also received with Mrs. Cleveland at state functions; Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, whose husband was a neighbor and intimate friend of Grover Cleveland at Princeton, and Mrs. White, wife of the Chief Justice, whose husband, then a full-fledged society woman by now, for she was born during the four years between her father's terms, while he lived in New York.

Some of these Presidents' Wives. About these consorts of the two most powerful leaders which the Democracy has had within the past generation will be grouped all of those women of that party who hope to be the mistress of the White House at this time next year, as well as the wives of the present and former party leaders.

Many of these honor guests will be old friends of Mrs. Cleveland, notable among these being Mrs. Adlai Stevenson, who was the second lady of the land during Mrs. Cleveland's last reign in the White House; Mrs. Judson Harmon, who as one of her "Cabinet ladies," also received with Mrs. Cleveland at state functions; Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, whose husband was a neighbor and intimate friend of Grover Cleveland at Princeton, and Mrs. White, wife of the Chief Justice, whose husband, then a full-fledged society woman by now, for she was born during the four years between her father's terms, while he lived in New York.

Granddaughters of Presidents. No other young ladies can sit at this table in the status of Presidents' children, for Mr. Cleveland was the only Democrat to become President within



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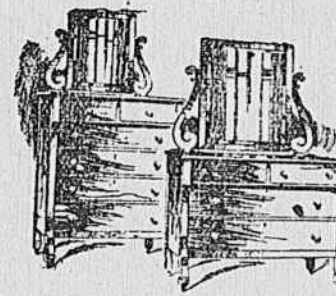
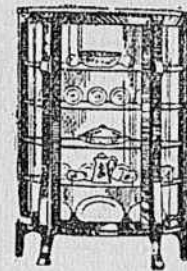
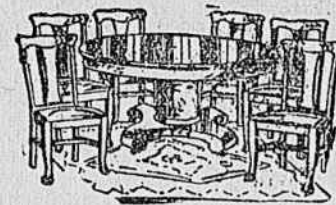
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the past fifty-one years and the only Democratic President of the past sixty-seven years who died leaving any descendants. Of his predecessors belonging to the Democracy Buchanan was a bachelor and Pierce lost his only child, a boy of thirteen, in a railway accident just prior to his inauguration, while Polk, Jackson and Madison were childless. So the committee entrusted with the interesting task of filling this table reserved for ladies with the blood of Democratic Presidents in their veins will have to confine its other invitations to the female descendants of Presidents Jefferson, Monroe, Van Buren and Tyler. The father of Democracy can be represented by the daughter of his great-grandson, Thomas Jefferson Coolidge, former minister to France, who still lives in Boston.

She is Mrs. Lucius M. Sargent, and in Virginia there are a number of Epworths, Randolphs, Andersons, Parkes, Rufins and Melkhamas, descended from the Sage of Monticello. And among the descendants of James Monroe there are, in the North a number of Gouverneurs, granddaughters and great-granddaughters of pretty Maria Hester Monroe, who married Samuel L. Gouverneur in the White House. Among these are three great-granddaughters of President Monroe—Miss Maude Gouverneur, Mrs. Roswell Randall Hoos and Mrs. William Crawford Johnson, whose mother, Mrs. Samuel L. Gouverneur, was of Washington, has lately produced a volume of her memoirs, Mrs. Hoos (formerly Rosz Gouverneur) is the wife of a

chaplain in the navy and lives in Washington, while Mrs. Johnson (nee Ruth Gouverneur) is the wife of a physician of Frederick, Md. In Virginia there are also descendants of President Monroe, through his daughter, Eliza, who married Judge George Hay, of that State, who prosecuted Aaron Burr at the treason trial. There are also many living descendants of Presidents Van Buren and Tyler, especially of the latter, who married twice. Among President Tyler's granddaughters eligible for the special table at the harmony breakfast are the two daughters of President Lyon G. Tyler, of William and Mary College, and the two young daughters of the latter's brother, D. Courtenay Tyler, former member of Congress from Virginia. Both of these gentlemen are sons of President Tyler by his second wife. There are also many descendants of the same President's first marriage.

Another White House mistress. Another former mistress of the White House besides Mrs. Cleveland will be eligible to attend this peace convale. She is Miss Rosz Elizabeth Cleveland, who presided over her brother's official home during the first fifteen months that he was President.

She is a woman of great force of character and industry, whose early life was fraught with sadness. In early childhood she was orphaned by her father's death, then two of her brothers were lost at sea when she was in her twenties and her mother died shortly before her Brother Governor

her first nomination. Up to that time she had conducted a school in Indiana, but had more lately lectured before classes in history at a New York State college for women. Since President Cleveland's marriage she has taught history in New York City, has written books, including a novel, traveled in Europe and, in recent years, has lived at Dark Harbor, Me. She will be eligible to attend the harmony convale as part of a class of distinguished women made up of wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of former Democratic presidential candidates.

It is hoped that a considerable contingent of her former Cabinet women will be gathered about Mrs. Cleveland at the harmony feast. Among those still living are Mrs. Thomas F. Bayard, Mrs. Richard Olney, Mrs. Charles S. Fairchild, Mrs. William C. Endicott, Mrs. David R. Francis, Mrs. Wilson S. Bissell, Mrs. Judson Harmon and Mrs. Hoke Smith, whose husband has just come to the Senate from Georgia. More than a half century having elapsed since Cleveland's immediate Democratic predecessor (Buchanan) left the White House, none of the widows of the latter's Cabinet officers are, so far as known, alive.

This peace jubilee of the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of the leaders of Democracy will be the first affair of the kind in the history of American politics, and it is proposed that the "Dolly Madison Maytime breakfast" shall hereafter be an annual event in the national capital. (Copyright, 1912, by John Elfreth Watkins.)

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